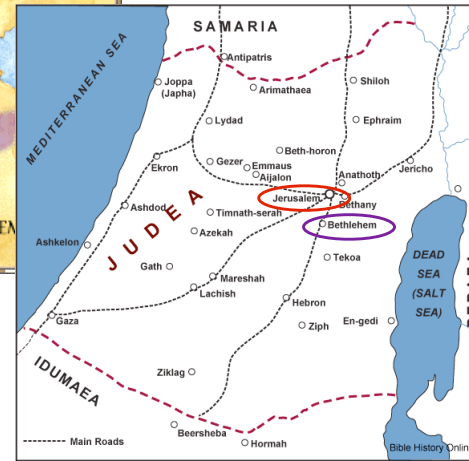


## Birth of Jesus

- born approx. 4 BCE
- tradition says in Bethlehem, near Jerusalem
- a Jew living in the Roman province of Judea



<http://www-tc.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/religion/maps/art/roman.gif>



<http://www.bible-history.com/maps/Map-Judea-Southern-Palestine.gif>

## **Jesus' Ministry**

- Around age 30, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist
- For several years he was a traveling teacher and healer
- He declared that the "Kingdom of God" was coming



# Temptation of Christ



- Jesus withdrew to desert for 40 days
- Fasting, meditation, prayer
- Tempted by Satan, but Jesus refused Satan's temptations and was nourished by angels

# Sermon on the Mountain

(Sermon on the Mount)



A collection of sayings and teachings of Jesus that emphasized his moral teachings (later written in the Gospel of Matthew)

“Do to others what you would have them do to you”

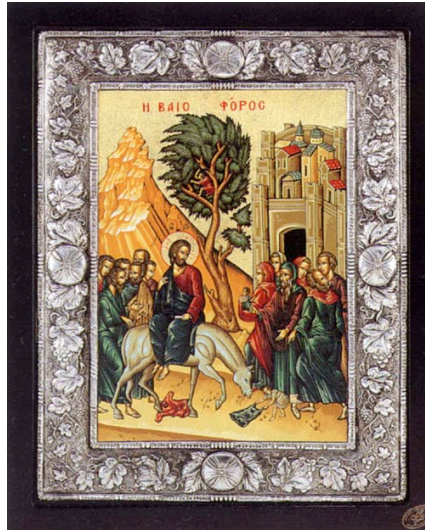
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God”

“The Lord’s Prayer”



## Last Days in Jerusalem

- Jesus was met by cheering crowds as he entered Jerusalem for Passover  
(Think back to our earlier study of Judaism: What does Passover celebrate?)
- He created a major disturbance in the temple, which attracted the attention of the authorities



## The Last Supper

- Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his 12 disciples
- He predicted the betrayal of one of his disciples and his own death



<http://www.oilpaintingsgallery.com/ProdImages/The-Last-Supper-15.jpg>

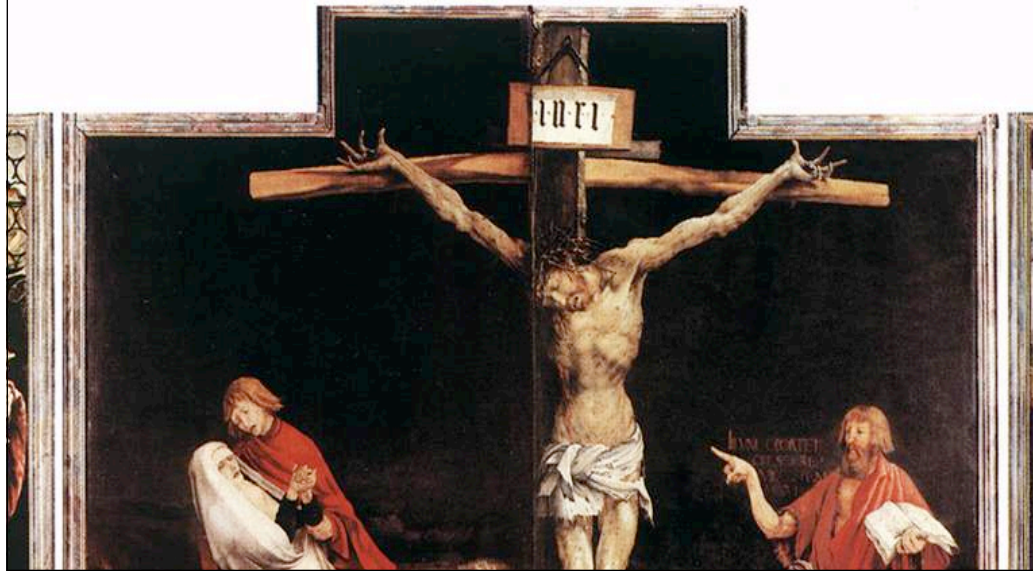
## Arrest & Trial

- After the Last Supper Jesus was arrested by the Romans
- Several gospels describe a preliminary trial before Jewish priests
- Condemned him as a blasphemer and political rebel deserving death, but had no authority to pass the death sentence
- Delivered him to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, where Pilate ordered Jesus executed by crucifixion



## The Crucifixion

- Jesus was killed using the Romans' most brutal form of public execution
- According to the gospels, almost all of his followers abandoned him



## The Resurrection

- On the third day after his burial, Jesus' tomb was found empty
- He appeared to numerous disciples
- He ascended to heaven and his disciples began to spread his message





## **How do we know about Jesus?**

- Jesus himself left no writings
- Accounts about him and his teachings were written after his death and make up the New Testament



**Apostle Paul preaching**

## Spread of Christianity

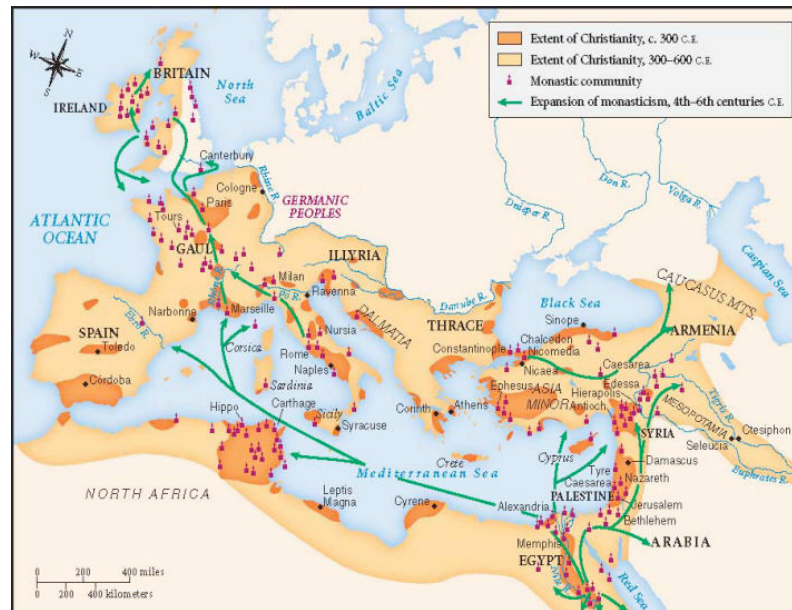
- The disciples plus a new convert named Paul became *apostles* who spread the *gospel* (“good news”) about Jesus
- The new religion spread quickly (map below shows Apostle Paul’s journeys)



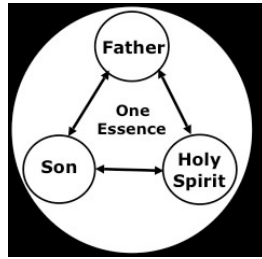


## Spread of Christianity

- Within a few centuries Christianity became the dominant religion in the Roman Empire (map below shows Apostle Paul's journeys)



[http://web.cccc.edu/cagatucci/classes/hum213/Maps/ChristianitySpreadHUNT\\_Map207\\_2.jpg](http://web.cccc.edu/cagatucci/classes/hum213/Maps/ChristianitySpreadHUNT_Map207_2.jpg)



## The Trinity

Christians came to see God  
as Three-In-One

The Father = Creator

The Son = Redeemer

The Holy Spirit = Sustainer



## The Bible

39 books from Jewish scriptures = *Old Testament*

27 books from early church leaders = *New Testament*



## **Roman Catholic tradition**

- In the 4th century CE, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire
- Roman Catholic Church is still the largest single Christian denomination
- Authority on matters of belief and practice rests with church hierarchy; the Bishop of Rome - the Pope - is at the top

### **Vatican in Rome**



### **Pope Francis**



[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d5/Pope\\_Francis\\_in\\_March\\_2013.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d5/Pope_Francis_in_March_2013.jpg)

## The Orthodox Tradition

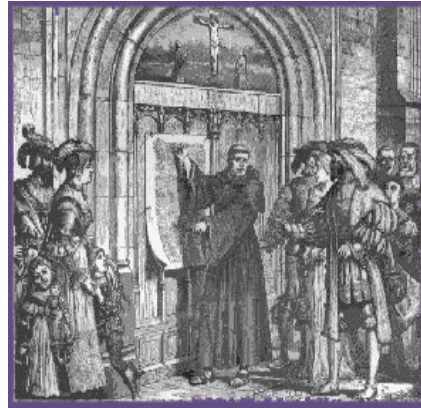
- Split from Roman Catholic tradition in 1054 CE
- Center of church authority was in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey)
- Main form of Christianity in Greece and Russia ("Eastern Orthodox")
- Different church calendar, no pope, priests can marry

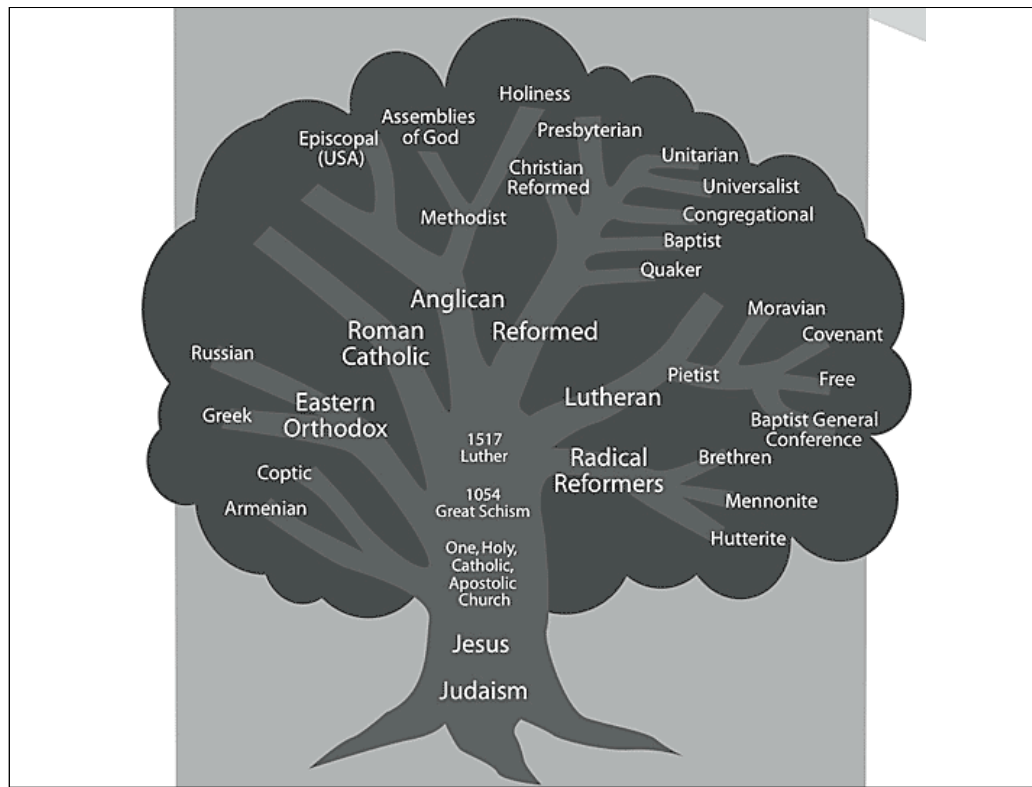


<http://cdn.timesofisrael.com/uploads/2012/09/church-sepulcher-greek-orthodox-priests-easter-2004-d2300-635x357.jpg>

## The Protestant tradition

- Began with Martin Luther in 1517 CE - Germany
- Emphasis on authority of the Bible and the individual conscience, not church hierarchy or tradition
- Subdivided into hundreds of denominations







## **SEVEN SACRAMENTS\***

Baptism

Confirmation

Holy Eucharist (Communion)

Penance (Confession of sins)

Matrimony (Marriage)

Anointing of the Sick

Holy Orders

\* Christian churches vary in the number of sacraments they observe and the manner in which they observe them

## Examples of variation in the sacraments

### BAPTISM



### COMMUNION



## WORSHIP

Christian worship services come in many styles, from highly ritualized, scripted, and formal to casual, expressive, and informal.



A typical mainline Protestant worship service focuses on the minister's sermon.



A typical Roman Catholic or Episcopal worship service focuses on the liturgy of the mass.



A typical Pentecostal or charismatic worship service focuses on praise and ecstatic "speaking in tongues."

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

- Four Sundays before Christmas the Advent season begins. A new candle is lit each week in anticipation of the birth of Jesus, the "light of the world."
- Christmas Day, the commemoration of Jesus' birth, is celebrated December 25.



## LENT & HOLY WEEK



40 days before Easter, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.



Palm Sunday comes one week before Easter.



**Good Friday**, just before Easter, commemorates the crucifixion.



Easter is the most important Christian holiday, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre in **Jerusalem** is said to mark the spot of Jesus' empty tomb.